Transcript of Taped Interview

with

VIRGINIA JENCKES

Taped 1967

Indiana State Library

Indiana Division

Oral History Project

1972

The following is an interview with Mrs. Virginia Jenckes, former Congresswoman from the Sixth District in Indiana. She served from 1933 to 1939 as a Democrat. The tapes that you are about to hear were made on October 11 and 12, 1967, in Terre Haute, Indiana. They were made at the Terre Haute House, the place where Mrs. Jenckes stayed on her campaigns and during the primary race back in the thirties. Mrs. Jenckes at the time of the tape was approaching her ninetieth birthday. She tells of her family heritage that begins in Vincennes, her interest in flood control in the Wabash Valley near her home in Terre Haute and the fact that it eventually led to her bid for politics and the nomination in the '33 primary. There is a summary of her terms in office, her fight for state flood control, repeal of prohibition, the anti-communist stand she took, her friendships with the many top officials in Washington and her efforts in later years as a resident in Washington, D.C. The tape contains many interesting stories and other memories of her time in Congress. The interviewer is Tom Krasean, Field Agent for the Indiana State Library.

VJ: Hans Christian Anderson said, "Let's begin at the beginning." The beginning begins with my great grandmother who was born in Vincennes in 177.....in Ft. Sakville rather, in 1775. She was Francoise Conoyer, daughter of French immigrants and was being prepared after her birth to go to Detroit to be educated. My great great grandfather

was born in Troy, New York, of Dutch parentage and belonging to the Episcopal Church, the Church of England. He was a captain in the Forest Rangers at the age of eighteen in New York Colony, New Amsterdam. When the Revolution was approaching and the Continental Army was being formed, he joined. Later he was captain in the Continental Army and met with Washington when he disbanded his army and called all his officers together. These officers formed the Society of the Cincinnati named after the great Roman general, who when he was retired after the Carthagenian War, said that he would rather go home and be a farmer and turn his swords into plowshares. They named the society the Society of the Cincinnati and every officer gave of his own private income the equivalent of a month's salary which became the first pension fund in the United States. John Jay who was Chief Justice under George Washington, President George Washington, appointed my great grandfather to be the first circuit judge of the Northwest Territory. He came west on horseback over the mountains and held court once a year in Vincennes, in Kaskaskia, Illinois, which is now extinct, and Detroit. He rode the marshes and the country with just one body servant and never was attacked by the Indians. When he got to Vincennes and saw this little French girl he fell desperately in love with her and in 1790 they were married. My great grandmother could neither write nor read but great grandfather taught her both and taught her sufficient law to be able to settle neighborhood disputes while he was away holding court. As

their children grew they lived on a five acre tract outside of the fort which the government had ceded or granted to great grandfather. It is now a part of Burnett Heights. One day great grandfather was away from home holding court and the Indians were on the warpath, and the path took them right past where my great grandmother and her children were housed and the old brave started to climb in. He was going after their scalps. Great grandmother picked up the axe and chopped off his hand. It enraged and hurt him so that he fell back among his braves and that gave the soldiers a chance to come up and protect the family. Otherwise, I wouldn't be sitting here talking to you today. They had ten children and none of the boys ever left any heirs or died natural deaths. Washington Irving in his "Bonneville" stories tells the story of one of the sons who was in the Indian fur trade under Astor and he was chased and treed by the Indians on one of his expeditions. He fell down inside the tree and how they happened to know what became of him...later they found his notebook and the brass buttons from his uniform. So you see coming on down, their youngest daughter was Frances Sidney Vandiver and she married Joseph Somes, S-O-M-E-S, who had been born in Wallingford, England, and came to Vincennes in 1828 to teach medicine at the University of Vincennes. He was a doctor. He doctored all of the Gimbles. The first family of Gimbles lived on a lot right back of my grandmother's and grandfather's house and all of their children were of corresponding age so that I've always...The Gimbles' first

store was in Vincennes. Grandfather Somes after he gave up teaching became a practicing physician there and lived in Vincennes for a great many years. They had ten children. My Uncle Harry was the oldest one and my father was the youngest one. My father was James Ellis Somes who had the appointment for Annapolis and his mother wept and he gave it up, went to Vincennes University and graduated as an apothecary. He later was appointed analyst of drugs at the Port of New Orleans right after...shortly after the Civil War. My father was born in 1848. He married Mary Oliver of Hopkinsville, Kentucky in 1875 and I was the younger of two daughters born to them. My older sister died when I was a little girl so I have always felt that I was the only child and that I have just grown up with Terre Haute. I can remember one amusing little anecdote. An aunt of mine was unmarried and she lived with father and mother and in those days they had great parties here at the Prairie House which was the Terre Haute House and one fall she went to a party and went home after the dance and threw her dress on the foot of the bed. Something crossed her nose. She threw it to one side and when she got up in the morning there was a dead mouse on the bed. So you see my memory goes back a long ways in the civilization and the culture and comfort of Terre Haute. After I grew up I married Ray Greene Jenckes who was the youngest son of the Jenckes family that had come to Indiana in 1816 and had bought a great deal of land and many acres around the county here

and in the adjoining county, among them the site of the present Highland Lawn Cemetery where my husband and daughter are buried within fifty feet of the spot where he was born. The Jenckes were old New England people. Mr. Jenckes' grandfather or great grandfather was colonial Governor of Rhode Island appointed by King George III and in 1730 he signed a paper appointing one William Greene to be a justice of the peace and all the duties that went with it. William Greene became my husband's great grandfather when his father and mother were married at the home of Henry Clay. General Nathaniel Greene of Revolutionary fame was a son of that union. I mean the Governor and his wife. The old Greene Homestead in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, is now the home of the Historical Society of Rhode Island. Mr. Jenckes was the first miller of corn, commercial miller of corn in the United States. None of my family were particularly interested...they were interested in good government but not in participating and bringing it about. But after Mr. Jenckes and I were married and his death I was interested more in flood control and repeal of prohibition because I knew the un-economic side of both. Prior to 1918 when prohibition became the law of the land, a little better than eighty-eight thousand bushels of corn were used [?] in Terre Haute on the river bank every twenty-four hours and anyone knows that that's a big loss to the farmer. And, of course, we had a good deal of farmland and I saw corn go from $1.40 a bushel down to $.10 a bushel and when it

was .10 a bushel I was paying .05 to have it hauled to town after having paid .06 to have it harvested.

TK: I think it would be interesting to know what your schooling was and what....

VJ: I went to...I was the youngest pupil that ever entered at the time, ever entered Wiley High School. I entered Wiley High School when I was eleven years old. And I went there until September...I would have graduated in February but I stopped and went down to Coates College. I went there a couple of years and then I thought I knew enough.

TK: Right.

VJ: And I stopped because I was having a very grand time going to parties and things. And after all, in those days college educations weren't considered necessary for girls and I wanted to be a doctor. I wanted to be a professional woman and my family ridiculed me and everybody else did because in those days women doctors didn't have any standing and they didn't have a chance. So, as I said, after Mr. Jenckes and I were married I became interested...I had to become interested in business because I had all this farm land and I was responsible for paying the debts and paying the taxes and keeping things going. And you couldn't do it with the situation then. Incidentally, the Eighteenth Amendment is the Prohibition Amendment. The Nineteenth Amendment gave us women the right to vote. We...when the Eighteenth Amendment was presented to the country all of our youth was in Europe. All of our women

didn't have a vote so the vote for prohibition was a very limited one, I mean as to the people that had the opportunity. And after all, if you had been in my position...Mr. Jenckes was ill for three years and I wasn't anyplace during the time prohibition was new and when I first started to see things I knew that it was not only an economic failure but that it was an impossible thing. And when you realize that the law was made for other people, not for the men who made the law, you can understand why it was a failure. And then there never was any penalty for buying the liquor; the penalty was all paid by the poor devil that was making the living selling it. (That wasn't a good one to put in there.) So then I had this farm land that was subject to overflow and while I was at home and my evenings were long I did queer reading for a woman at that time. I read about flood control, business, things of that sort. And I found that the United States Government through the Army Department, Chief of the Engineering Department, had the right...did own the Wabash River and that they could say what would happen to it. They were taking care of the Illinois River and all these rivers around and we were losing a couple of million dollars a year by floods. So I started out and organized the Wabash-Maumee Valley Improvement Association. I got ten thousand paid-up members when the Republicans decided they wanted possession of the organization and we called a meeting at the Masonic Temple here when, oh, Jim Watson, Charlie Greathouse, the National Committeeman of

the Republican Party all came and they were fighting for the control of the organization.

TK: This would be about what year, about what year?

VJ: 1928.

TK: About 1928?

VJ: '27. I'm sure it was '27. Well, anyway they elected Charlie Greathouse president, Louis Stevenson, from Bloomington, Illinois, father of Adlai and son of the Vice-President vice-president of the organization and me, secretary-treasurer. Well, they didn't know that was the job I wanted. In all river organizations the secretary-treasurer is the one that controls things so that was the thing I wanted. I kept still but it was one of the bitterest fights that I think I have ever seen witnessed politically because the Pennsylvania Railroad maintained an agent here, a man named Straus [?], their claim agent from Rockville, was kept here for years to fight anything that I would do to try to get navigation on the Wabash River. It went on. We got headquarters in the Chamber of Commerce here and the Republicans put in a chap named Harold Wisehart from Clinton as secretary to me and one day Mr. Wisehart disappeared with the automobile, the typewriter and all of the card index. He took them down to Washington to Jim Watson and, of course, that was kind of a blow. But nevertheless, we survived and the Army Engineers had made these surveys and the recommended that eighteen million dollars would cover the costs of flood control in Indiana. There

were times...One year about 1927 when we had nine floods in fourteen months in the Wabash. And in the flood in February down in Gibson County the animals froze to death standing in the stalls. It went on. I kept on the fight in spite of the loss of my typewriter and automobile. Always I had furnished all the expense of this thing myself. I paid my own expenses. I used my car and I went through the thing without anything. And as I said, got a membership of ten thousand paid up members who backed me from Ft. Wayne in the northeastern corner down to Mt. Vernon and down in that corner.

The Wabash River arises in St. Mary's, Ohio, Lake St. Mary's, Ohio, and it comes down. The Maumee River flows into Lake Erie just opposite the opening of the Erie Canal in Pennsylvania. Now then, the idea of the Army Engineers and a few of us was to come up the Wabash and a fifteen mile dredged canal from the Wabash to the Maumee would carry both into the Maumee. The Maumee flows into Lake Erie. There'd be never any question such as the dispute as they had in Illinois when they were canalizing the Illinois River. When I say...Just one little digression...At that time it used to cost five times as much to ship a piano from New York to Chicago as it cost to ship a piano from New York to San Francisco. Those were the things that made our proposition...and the Army Engineers were very enthusiastic. So was President Hoover when he was Secretary of Commerce. He saw our plans and our blueprints. I went down to

Washington to try to see Senator, oh, the man I mentioned a minute ago...well, I went down to see him and as I went in...he knew I was coming and as I went in the front door he came out the back door...or went out the back door. And he was working with the Pennsylvania Railroad to stop any progress or any help from the government on our Wabash. General Herbert Deakyne who was chief of engineers told me in his office in Washington that the Wabash River was entitled to first place for relief. It was the most important river in the United States at that time and that it should have taken precedence and that he had the authority to do anything he wanted to with it. And he was the man who authorized the survey and later helped us get the recommendation of the eighteen million dollars. Time went on and I didn't get much. I went to the Houston Convention that nominated Al Smith and presented the reclamation resolution to the resolutions committee which they accepted word for word as I read it to them and they promised, promised us help. Hoover promised us help. But when the Ohio River was a completed unit this nine foot channel and the Army Engineers chartered a boat to go from Pittsburg to Cairo, I was invited to go along and I did. When we got to Cincinnati, President Hoover came on the boat and went with us overnight but I wasn't even allowed to speak to him nor could I get a word in anyway. And when he was President he didn't give us any assistance at all. It went on for four years. Things with the farmers as you all know

got lots worse. There just wasn't any hope. After the Democratic Convention...I had my nomination before President Hoover...but President Roosevelt was nominated by the convention and I campaigned on the program of flood control and repeal. By that time the people were waking up to the fact that repeal was not the moral support that they had expected and certainly the economic situation was terrible. In regard to getting the nomination...oh, in March some of the county agents from the old Fifth District came down and asked me to run for Congress.

TK: This would be in 1931?

VJ: '32.

TK: '32, right. All right.

VJ: I said, "Oh, I can't. I'm a Democrat and the farmers are all Republicans and I can't afford to make an independent campaign. And I wouldn't have the support of the organization." Well, these men sat there. They stayed...Well, "I'll tell you, come out as a farm laborite and we'll finance your campaign." Well, of course, I never told that to many people. I didn't tell it to anybody at that time but I said, "I can't, boys. I believe a leopard can't change its spots and I believe fully in the principle of Thomas Jefferson that no one has the right to do that which is not good for the governed." And I said, "I believe I'm that kind of a Democrat and I always will be." So we went along and I didn't say anything to anybody. The Beck-Linthicum Bill was presented to the House and

the Senate for a vote and Court Gillen who was the Representative of the old Fifth District on the Democratic ticket, Jim Watson and our other United States Senators all boomed out "No" when they were put up for a roll call on the Beck-Linthicum. That merely gave you and me the opportunity to express our ideas on prohibition. Of course, Court Gillen had promised the Terre Haute merchants that he would vote for anything that looked like a referendum. Well, when he boomed, "No", it made our merchants here and the men who had not supported him but had given him an opportunity to run, made them angry and one night I came in about, oh, half past ten and my daughter said, "Mother, some men have been calling you every fifteen minutes tonight. They said they'd get you before you went to bed." Well, they called about midnight. "Hello, is that you?" And it went on down through fourteen voices, came back to the first one. It was Dick Werneke and he said, "We want to know if you won't run for Congress." "Oh", I said, "Yes, thank you, I'll be glad to." Jim Powers came on the telephone, "You'd better think it over, Virginia. It's a big job." "Oh", I said, "That's all right, Jim, I'll get there. I'll be up at the paper in the morning and tell Bill Cronin my statement and I'll be ready and as soon as I get my house straight I'll go out campaigning." Well, I did. These men, you see, didn't know the support that I had on my own and from this Wabash River. Vigo County in that first primary gave me a majority of better than twelve thousand out of only fourteen thousand votes cast. Well, of course,

Vigo County nominated me. The ten counties...you see, this district had been gerrymandered, and Fred Purnell, who represented the old Ninth District, and Court Gillen, who represented the old Fifth District, were both sitting members. Well I had to defeat Court Gillen in the primary which was easy, and then I had to defeat Fred Purnell in the fall. Well Fred Purnell was not particularly popular with his Republican friends, with the Republicans on the floor and Senator [?] Beck, a Republican from Pennsylvania, sent me Fred Purnell's record on the disbursing office. He had seventeen members of his family on the federal payroll. He had his father-in-law on, a man of eighty-five, as a page in the House. He also had him on as a chemist. He had his wife on as Secretary of the Corn Borer Association. He had his two sons on as inspectors on the Corn Borer. The rest of them I can't remember but nevertheless, I didn't choose...This is the first time I have ever told that publicly or for use. I never told it once in the campaign. I went on my campaign with the principle that if I couldn't say, "Elect thyself", I didn't want to defeat a non-entity and today that thing is very true. We need to build up, we need to find the good and not bring hatred and malice into everything that we have. Well, the campaign went on...Shall I tell some of the amusing incidents? I was going up one day...I had my nomination and I was going up to Warren County which at that time had more buffalo sod in it than any other county in the United States and

it was very, very pro-Republican. There was only one... in one precinct there was only one Democratic vote and I was going up to meet the county chairman and see if we couldn't get that precinct committeeman...to get that one voter to be a precinct committeeman. I was going up what is now 63 and it had just been oiled. And I was kinda' mad because I heard the pebbles hitting the fenders and it was bad for the car but I went along and every person I met, I said, "I'm going up to West Lebanon to meet Ura Seegar. Do you know Ura?" Well, some of them did and some didn't but anyway I was on the right road. Finally this poor old man came out of his barnlot driving his team back to the field to do the afternoon plowing and I stopped him and I said, "I'm going up to West Lebanon to meet Ura Seegar. Do you know Ura?" "Oh, yeah, Ura's a Democrat." "Hum", I said, "So am I a Democrat." He said, "So am I." I said, "Good, I'm your candidate for Congress." "Oh, hell, you're that widow woman. I'm a widower. Ain't it hell to be lonesome?" [Laughter] And I said, "It certainly is. Goodbye." That was one of the amusing incidents of the campaign and one of the happy things. Well, in that campaign, of course, Paul was a candidate. Paul McNutt was a candidate too and he and Fred Van Nuys...Now, my vote in the fall election...See, I had my nomination before the state convention so I was the elder really of the candidates. And after they got nominated they didn't like the idea of having a woman on the ticket. They thought I was going to

hold them back but that was May and I went along without... letting them alone and asking them to let me alone 'cause I had an idea of what I could do in the Sixth District and the national convention came and Roosevelt, of course, was the principal nominee and my daughter and I went to the convention but we didn't stay through it. We came back home and listened in on the radio and when it was made unanimous, we went along, went along on the convention, along on the campaign. Paul...Governor McNutt campaigned in the district quite a bit and so did Senator Van Nuys. And in '34...this is skipping a little bit at a time but I wanted to tell it, Paul was Governor and Shea Minton was the candidate for the Senate, we were having a meeting in Attica and after that we were going to have a torchlight parade in Crawfordsville for the candidate for the Senate and I had to be there. Well, it was known that Virginia and I were going along the road and it was about twilight. We saw this old flivver coming toward us with two men on the front seat, heard a report, a shot, I felt a sting on my cheek. And the bullet had come through the windshield of the car and caught me just...just missed my glasses by not even a fraction of an inch. Have I talked enough about the campaign and the politics?

TK: Not yet. You keep up. That's very good. It sounds interesting.

VJ: Hum?

TK: It sounds interesting. What happened then after that?

In the car, the shot, you know?

VJ: Well, nothing, I didn't tell it.

TK: You didn't say anything?

VJ: No. I think the idea was to intimidate me and that I would go into Crawfordsville hysterical.

TK: I see.

VJ: Now, you know there was very little blood there. Now, it grazed my cheekbone, and did make a scratch.

TK: I see. Maybe at this point we'd like to ask you what your appraisal was of Paul McNutt? As long as we're on the subject or have mentioned him, you...

VJ: Well, of course, Paul and I weren't friends. He read me out of the party.

TK: He did.

VJ: Um-huh.

TK: When was this now and how did this come about?

VJ: This was about '34. I made the comment that we had an entirely Indiana delegation, thirteen Representatives and two Senators. That was '35 because Shea Minton had succeeded to the Senate by that time and I made the remark...I wrote and told Paul that if he would call our Indiana delegation together and work with us, let us work with him that we'd go so far. We could do so much for Indiana and they took it out as criticism of Paul, which it was. [Laughter] And he read me out of the party so that was a...

TK: In other words, you were not on his team?

VJ: Hum?

TK: You wouldn't necessarily say that you were on his team, in other words. You can't say that you were on his team? You were not friends?

VJ: Oh, we just weren't friends. I never had any words with him. I never believed in fussing with anybody because after all, you're apt to say things you don't want to say if you get mad.

TK: What are your thoughts on the various changes that he made when he first came into office?

VJ: You mean in the method of government?

TK: Yes, uh-huh.

VJ: Well, I personally don't believe in the dole. I believe that everybody should be self-supporting and I think that when you make people subservient and try to give them a living, you're making a nation of paupers. That was the way I felt when the New Deal was enacted. The first bill that was presented to me to vote on after I was sworn in was the so-called Economy Act and I boomed when I was called, my name was called, I said, "No". I was scared to death, the clerk reading the roll, "Jenckes", "No", and the third time he called, I was supposed to be an ingenue without an ideal. The only thing that I had gotten out of the debate was the fact that it would cut the pension of the poor soldier fifteen percent and he was only getting thirty dollars a month anyway and I couldn't quite see how he could live on $25.50. And I had promised, the one time I was heckled in my whole first campaign was,

"What would you do on veterans' legislation?" It was in a meeting over in West Terre Haute among the miners and I said, "I don't know. I don't know what your legislation is", but I said, "I'll promise you this that I'll never vote to take away any of the things that you now enjoy." And when they took that four dollars and a half off, I thought that was...and of course, it kind of never...the administration...Harry Hopkins and those people never did get adjusted to my ideas and my way. And before we were sworn in the organization of the state delegation was called by Arthur Greenwood, who was the dean of the Indiana Delegation. Now we were thirteen Democrats in the House but he didn't call me to that meeting. He called all twelve men. And the next morning I heard about it. They were called to decide on a member of the steering committee. Indiana and Michigan were supposed to work together under one steering headman. Michigan had twelve votes and we had thirteen so the next morning I met Joe Burns. (You know he was later speaker) in the hall, and I was giving Arthur Greenwood a piece of my mind. I told him what I thought of the crookedness of calling a meeting and not calling all of the Democrats. Well, Joe Burns came along just at that time and he took a hand too, he said, "Now, if you need any help, let me know, I'll be right there." They had the meeting that morning and Arthur Greenwood stood up and he said, "Congressmen and Congresswoman", and I stood up and I said, "Now, Mr. Speaker, let me tell

you: When my vote is cast, nobody will know whether it was a woman or a man that cast it. And hereafter, I want to be considered the Representative of the People of the Sixth District and nobody else." Well, I cast my individual vote in the caucus. Of course, I always intended to vote with Indiana but I had to hold my own.

TK: Well, let's get back, then, to the campaign. Did your, shall we say, opponents ever attempt to...

VJ: Well, he said, you know we had these dinners in Rockville when the candidates for both tickets...all the tickets had to appear on the same platform at the same time and Fred Purnell...If it had been a time when we were together, he'd always made me go first and he made me go first in Rockville and I told about the extravagance of the agricultural committee and the George Peek Committee, and how they paid ninety thousand dollars for their conference table and what all the wheat and corn that they were storing was going to amount to. And...but I didn't tell the story about Fred Purnell's family on the federal payroll. So when he came in and sat down right in front of me...and when I saw him he was rigging up a loud speaker. This meeting was out of doors and the man was very confusing and very...trying to talk before him so when I saw Fred Purnell come in and the loud speaker wasn't quite ready, I said, "Oh, here's Mr. Purnell, I'll just sit down now and let him tell you because he wants to and he knows so much." Well, I sat down...I had to sit on the platform and I sat down and Fred Purnell got up and said, "You know

if you elect that woman to Congress, it'll be two years before she knows where to hang her hat." Now, he says, "That woman", and he pointed over his shoulder at me, "Is a creature with a small fund of information and the curse of the nation today is the small fund of information that her citizens have." Well, the next time I got to my feet I said, "You know Fred Purnell says I don't know, you know I don't know and so do I know I don't know. Well, how would I? I haven't been down there sixteen years while the farmers were getting poorer all the time." I said, "But if you all elect me, I'll go down and sit through the short session that I may learn as much from observation maybe faster than if I had responsibility attached." Well, in the fall election...Oh, one interesting thing, my first campaign for the primary cost me around $550.00. My fall election cost around $1500.00. Now, that included my hotel bills when I had to go around the district and stay away from my apartment overnight. It included my daughter's expenses with me, our gasoline, and, of course, we didn't have any billboards but we did have cards to dispense and we did have to have advertising in the newspapers and those were the two, $550.00 and around $1500.00 for the expense of my first campaign. Well, the story... and everybody knows I got it...elected on about the same majority, averaged the same majority as the President, the Governor and the Senator. And when the first of December came and the short session was about to be... their last "lame duck" session was about to be opened, my

daughter and I started down to Washington. And on the way down, I saw this beautiful red hat in the window. Why I bought that red hat I don't know, but I did. It was a soft felt and it was a beautiful shade of red and I put it on. The Clerk of the House had written and said that if I'd come to his office he'd take Virginia up in the balcony and he'd take me on the floor. Well, of course, members-elect, or members who had been elected always have the courtesy of the floor. So I went to South Trimball's office and he took Virginia up in the gallery and then he took me on into the Democratic coatroom and he said, "You hang your coat here." And he didn't say a word about that red hat. And I went out on the floor with the red hat on, sat down... Joe Burns, Henry Rainey, Sam Rayburn, Bill Bankhead, all these old-timers who had known and followed the campaign, because I was an ingenue and they went on the principle that you couldn't defeat something with nothing, that I must have something back. So they all came up, "Virginia, let me show you where to put your hat." "Oh", I said, "Are we going to be here long? It's light, it's not bothering me." And they let me sit there, why, I don't know. They let me sit there on the floor because there was an unwritten regulation that women members can't go on the floor of the House with a hat on. Well, after the session adjourned, this woman, a Mrs. Effie Wingo, who had succeeded her husband from Arkansas, came up. "I'd like to know how you got by." "Oh", I said, "What did I do I shouldn't have done?"

"Well", she says, "We're not allowed to wear our hats on the floor and here you sat through the whole session with your..." Well, Everett Watkins, who represented the Indianapolis News, had sent for me to come to the door and he heard her say that to me. "Oh", I said, "You know Fred Purnell said I wouldn't know where to hang my hat; it would take me two years to find out." Everett Watkins sent that cable around the world on an Associated Press telegram and I have a copy of a Tokoyo newspaper with it. [Laughter]

TK: Were there many other women in the House?

VJ: There were four or five. I was the first woman to go in on my own. Mary Norton, who had been there for a good while, was appointed by Frank Hague to finish an unexpired term in the beginning. Florence Kahn was succeeding her husband when he died. Edith Nourse Rogers had succeeded her husband. I've forgotten the other woman but during the period while I was there at the short session, Lady Astor came over from the British House of Lords and the five women in the House were going to have a luncheon for her in the Speakers' dining room and they told me I could come along if I wanted to. Well, of course, I wanted to but when we got there, they were humorous. Theyhad a high chair for me to sit in, and I ate my lunch from that high chair because I was the baby of the Congress.

TK: I see.

VJ: At the same election a maiden woman from Kansas was elected, but she very shortly married the man that she defeated. [Laughter]

TK: Oh, let's see, now in '32, let's go off now to a little bit of the...

VJ: You asked a question there...United Mine Workers were always friends of mine. They...In the first place, we had a coal mine under the farm up here at the end of Thirteenth Street, the Submarine Mine, which was the first coal mine to tunnel under any river and the shafts were on the west side and we were on the east side of the river. Labor was...they weren't unfriendly but they didn't go out of their way in the first campaign, but afterwards they were friendly and wanted to be helpful. When we had the strike, that labor holiday at the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Mill, they wanted me to come home and be an arbitrator for them but the banks and the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Mill wouldn't let me.

TK: That sounds like an interesting story. Why wouldn't they let you come?

VJ: They just wouldn't.

TK: They just wouldn't let you?

VJ: Yes, Mr.[Timpannik?] at the banks knew that I knew what was crooked here.

TK: Oh, I see.

VJ: And they wanted to get me out as much as possible.

TK: I see. Now, I think maybe we might go back for a minute to your campaign, and so forth. And I was wondering what was the support of the organized labor or was it an important element in your victory in '32, '34, '36?

VJ: Well, organized labor was always a friend. They used to have meetings and help me in any way they possibly could. And

then as I said a little while ago when we had the labor holiday here they wanted me to come out and be the arbitrator and business or the banks and the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Mills wouldn't listen to it.

TK: Um-huh. Did you see...Did you notice if there was any more help maybe after '32, once you'd been in office?

VJ: They kept on helping me or not opposing me because I was for their legislation and for helping them. I recognized that we'd have to have, and must have happy relations between industry and labor.

TK: I see. O.K. I think...it was interesting here that in 1932 the Indiana delegation did not, of course, back FDR.

VJ: No, there never was a particularly close connection between Indiana...Indiana voted against Roosevelt. The Sixth District was the one district in Indiana that instructed the delegates to the convention to vote for Roosevelt.

TK: You were then?

VJ: Uh-huh.

TK: You did?

VJ: Yeah. I had the nomination then and when...you see, you have to have the representatives nominated and all of the precinct workers elected before you can call a district convention.

TK: I see.

VJ: You understand how our Indiana law works, I'm sure. When I first went to Washington, as I said, I was an ingenue and I carried on this campaign on my own. I'd gotten elected and I was sort of a queer person; I think nobody quite knew what I was going to do and when...after Roosevelt was elected I was invited to the White House more than all the rest of

of the Indiana delegation put together. I was invited the first year I was a member to the Supreme Court dinner which was the greatest dinner of the government officials that the government has and I sat right next to Homer Cummings who was Attorney General and who was a very good friend of mine and he and I...and he got me to introduce the bill to make it mandatory that all people owning firearms register them the same as we register our automobiles. And you can not possibly imagine the opposition and where it came from -- lawyers and judges opposed to a simple thing like that. One man who was a judge over here in Boone County had three sons who were lawyers and I never got worse letters from people in my life than I got from those three protesting the idea of registering their shooting arms. Well, you only have to read the papers today to know the importance. The Indiana delegation didn't work together. Of course, maybe the fact that they didn't take me in was my fault because I was so interested in Indiana and in doing things. For instance, the first summer I was elected after I was sworn in, we were building a new bridge in Washington across Calvert Street and over Rock Creek and the delegate from that district decided he wanted to go on a junket. So he begged me to get Indiana Bedford Stone into that contract and the building... the bridge built with Indiana Limestone. Then another big controversy and this pertains to communism...The Sisters of Providence had the school at St. Ann's Parish and they were renting a shotgun house, a little frame two-story, frame house, with a door in the front and a door in the back

and a stairway coming down right by this great big pot-bellied iron stove. Well, if they'd ever had a fire there, not a nun and not a child would ever gotten out of that second story alive. Well, when I went to Washington the head of the convent came down and asked me to help. They had entered into a contract with the school board to rent a disused public school building right next door. The building had been stripped; it didn't have a desk, it didn't have any plumbing facilities, didn't have a furnace and every window was broken. The nuns were going to repair it and pay the school board $500.00 a year rent. The president of the school board was a woman named Mrs. Henry Gratton Doyle, who was a member of St. Ann's Parish. The attorney for the school board was Henry Quinn, likewise a member of St. Ann's Parish but they allowed the Superintendent of Schools, Frank W. Balleau, who had at that time been run out of the schools of Boston, his resignation demanded before he left the room. He disappeared for four years and came back and was superintendent of the district schools. Well, he said that the Catholics had too much influence and he couldn't have that school. They had too many schools around Washington. Well, of course, the poor Sisters of Providence were very much distressed. They couldn't keep on in the school they had; their school was growing and it was a risk. So they came to me and I got a petition signed by about a hundred or a hundred and fifty members of the House, Jews, infidels, Gentiles, anybody that would sign it, I got to sign it. And then I presented it...asked for permission to present it to

the school board and they weren't even polite enough to ask me to sit down, this woman who was a member of St. Ann's Parish. It went along and I stayed in Washington all that summer to get that school question straightened out and finally I got an appointment with the commissioner, Hazen, president of the commission, and I wasn't getting anyplace. Quinn was there, the lawyer for St. Ann's, the lawyer for the Sisters of Providence and me, and we went on talking and finally I was terribly down, "Oh", I said, "Mr. Commissioner, when America wakes up next winter and they're reading their morning paper and they see the holocaust, so many people in Washington, so many children burned to death, so many nuns burned to death, how are you going to feel when you know it's all your fault? I walked out with the school in my hands. [Laughter] But that was the beginning...that was in the early days of communism. This man Balleau was bringing to Washington to teach the District of Columbia school teachers how to teach character education to the indigent child a man named Charters, not the historian, but a man named Charters from Ohio State University, who was listed in the Faculty of the University as Liaison Officer for Moscow University.

TK: Can we skip to another subject just for a moment? Can you give us some kind of an idea of what the feeling of the people in your district for the New Deal; and this was a social change, you know?

GJ: Well, of course, in the very beginning when you realize the situation that up here in Vermillion County around Clinton

in the coal mines, those men hadn't had a nickel, I mean a nickel, in their pockets in months. And when public works was put out and that first Saturday night after they were paid and they walked...these coal miners who hadn't been able to get a job or anything, walked down Main Street in Clinton, they had their hands in their trousers' pockets and were rattling the nickels. Of course, that made them great friends of the New Deal. You take the farm program when they killed all the little pigs and cut down the crops, many of the farmers claimed that they had more pigs that they had killed than they could have laid out on their farms. Those programs built up the idea of...that the government owes support. My ideal: I owe my government support but my government owes me protection. The mail that I got...I had the reputation of having the heaviest mail of anybody in the House. If I may go back a minute...that so-called Economy Act which was Roosevelt's answer to his promise to curtail expenses...and he automatically was to cut off fifteen percent from every article of expenditure in the government. Well, I knew I couldn't run my house that way and then as I said a minute ago, my promise to the veteran not to take away anything that he had then, made me say, "No", but the...I stayed in Congress long enough to vote for the repeal of every single provision in the Economy Act...it took...I was supposed to get ten thousand dollars a year when I was elected. I was supposed to have five thousand dollars a year clerical hire and a hundred and twenty-five dollars a year for

stationery allotment, no telephone and no telegrams. I was allowed one ticket from Terre Haute to Washington and return during each session at the rate of ten cents a mile so you can...

TK: I was going to say, as indicated by your mail what issues you think were of basic importance to your constituents back...

VJ: Well, the only issues people wrote about were wanting jobs, the post offices and seeing what they could get. There were very few at that time, very few informed letters and suggestions, and, of course, I got a great deal of mail against the bill to register firearms. That probably was one of the biggest issues that we had.

TK: You got a lot against it?

VJ: Yeah, against it and they're not going to get anyplace with it this time either.

TK: Well, my...often some other points too here are...what, other than direct correspondence, what channels of communication did you have with your constituents? I mean how did you contact them or get to them?

VJ: With who?

TK: With your constituents -- newsletter, radio, newspaper... I mean how did you get to them?

VJ: Well, everything.

TK: Uh-huh. You used everything?

VJ: I, well, we didn't have radio so much then. The only time I had radio was when I'd come out here to Terre Haute. We

didn't have it from Washington.

TK: Right, but you could talk to them when you came out here.

VJ: Yes. Well, I had to depend upon the letters and as I said a minute ago, my mail was considered the heaviest in the House. I was interested and I tried never to turn anyone down...

TK: I see.

VJ: If they asked for help, even the Ogalala Sioux Indians were my good friends.

TK: These people asking you for help, were they primarily applicants for jobs or what were they...

VJ: Primarily asking for jobs. You see...oh, you have no idea. A man dropped dead on the street here from starvation in '32. Well, the situation was terrible around here.

TK: And they expected or hoped that you would find them some kind of work.

VJ: They wanted jobs and, of course, all the fuss for the post offices, this doesn't need to be on record. All the fuss for the post offices...if you gave it...you had to give it to one and everybody else then turned out to be your enemy.

TK: Um-huh, um-huh. What was your relationship with the press in your district. If you wanted the space on a particular subject, could you get an interview or could you get editorial support for something...

VJ: Well, anybody that wanted to ask me any question they were most welcome to do it. Most of the press was friendly. Some of them were very much opposed to me.

TK: I see, because you were a woman or...or because of what you stood for?

VJ: Well, because they couldn't control me.

TK: I see.

VJ: Well, you see, as I said now, you take the Terre Haute Tribune and Bill_____. He belonged to the school that wanted to control. They wanted the things in their own hands and when I got that eighteen million dollars, which is another story, and it was allocated and I came out here for the announcement in the paper. And the next morning Tom O'Mara...Is this being recorded?

TK: I don't think so.

VJ: Tom O'Mara called me into his office and he held up his hands. "Gee, Virginia, eighteen million dollars is a hell of a lot of money." I'm going to tell part of this story, he asked me, "Who's going to control it?" Well, I said, "Tom, if I have my way, the Army Engineers are going to boss the job." And that day they organized a group to go down to Washington and tell the Chief of Engineers we didn't want their control. Now, I'm not going to mention who some of the men were that went.

TK: All right.

VJ: And there's a printed record in the Government Printing Office of that hearing of those men before the Board of Army Engineers.

TK: Uh-huh.

VJ: So my story can be very well proven.

TK: I see. Skipping around a bit again, who were some of the most

outstanding delegates with you during your terms in office? Can you name any of them that you...

VJ: Well, my best friends in the House of Representatives were Speaker Henry Rainey, Speaker Joe Burns and Bill Bankhead was the salt of the earth and Speaker Sam Rayburn, all of those men excepting Henry Rainey came into the Sixth District to campaign for me. And when Mr. Bankhead was here we had a rally at the gymnasium. He was kept on the platform sitting there until after 11:00 o'clock before he was ever introduced. Tom O'Mara was just as drunk as anything.

TK: Were there some of the others? Have you got stories that you might be able to tell about some of your experiences with some of these delegates in Washington at the beginning anyway at the first...

VJ: Well...

TK: ...getting to know them or...

VJ: I was chairman of this...I was a member of the District of Columbia committee, the Committee on Mines and Mining. I was offered a place on Agriculture but when I found what was to be the policy of the administration, I didn't take it because I couldn't go along with it. I don't believe in prosperity by curtailment. I think our trouble with our agriculture is not overproduction but it's mal-distribution. I have no ideas to suggest as to a better way to distribute our crops but that's what's got to be found in order that the farmer can get his own and that the people can get what they need to eat. On the Education Committee I came into the effort to fight communism and that was the thing that

had the green light no matter what happened. No matter what I was doing if there was something that came up that the communists wanted I had to get out and fight it. For instance, I introduced a bill in '35 to make it mandatory to display the American flag. Now when Hoover was President and all those new buildings were put up along Pennsylvania Avenue, the flag poles were put at a 45 degree angle. Well, the American method of displaying the flag is head-up, pointed to the sky. And I stood in a window overlooking the federal buildings on Pennsylvania Avenue one day and I didn't see a single American flag flying any place so I introduced this bill and I had a very difficult time getting...it was handed to the Judiciary Committee of which Hatton Sumners of Texas was chairman. And he didn't want to grant us a hearing but finally the women made a good deal of a fight...I mean the Ku Klux Klan women and the women in organizations got after it and we finally got a hearing and Julia Dent Grant_____[?], President Grant's daughter, was one of my first witnesses. And the next day now ... and you know she was a pretty good Republican but the next day she sent out ten thousand letters to Republican women asking them to vote for me. Well, it took a long time and finally the communists took the thing up. I tried to get a flag pole put on the Supreme Court building on the top. Now, those...there are two forty thousand dollar bronze flag poles standing in front. They're beautiful but in the early days when the Indians were around

here our flag wouldn't have been protected at all if it was outside of the building. That's the way our colonial ancestors started the flag from a pole on top of the building. Well, these two flag poles were there and I tried to get the judges...first I tried to get the architect to put a flag pole on top of the building and he wouldn't even answer my letter. I then appealed to the judges, the justices. They didn't answer my letter so after about five or six weeks, I made the letters public. And _____ [?], who was editor of the Washington tabloid, came out with a little paragraph in the middle of the front page. "Evidently, Mrs. Virginia Jenckes, (D-Ind.) has forgotten that the display of the American flag has gone to the limbo of forgotten things." Well, that was pretty bad but the communists picked it up and they telephoned to the office very frequently and they told my daughter that I didn't need to worry about the flag pole, those flag poles in front of the Supreme Court building; that I'd see their flag, the hammer and sickle flying from those flag poles. Well, in about a month the telephone rang at 7:00 o'clock in the morning and the fireman said, "Mrs. Jenckes, we're coming for you." Well, I said, "What for?" I said, "I can't put the fire out." "Well, we want you to see us do it." And then they came for me and here were these, one on each flag pole, claw and hammer tied at the top of these forty foot flagpoles. That was what the communists had done. Of course, we put up the aerial ladder and burned them down and had a grand time doing that. But that was back

in '34 or '35, '35. Now, this...I couldn't waken people then but they've got to wake up today to what this subversive element is trying to do to our country.

TK: I think we'll come back to that in a little while. We can just come...just for one moment here, I was wondering if you can give an opinion on what was the effectiveness of the Indiana delegation in various committees at the time. Were they very effective at all or not very effective?

VJ: I don't want to say so.

TK: You don't want to? All right.

VJ: Listen, don't ask me to say derogatory things.

TK: Uh-huh. O.K.

VJ: They weren't any good. Now, Louis Ludlow from Indianapolis was chairman of the Sub-committee on Appropriations for the Post Office and he never turned anybody down and he was a very helpful member to the individual but he couldn't speak to save his soul. Now, he wrote very well. He was a newspaperman, you know, and he was a loss to the Indiana delegation. He just hadn't had much when he went down there. None of them had the background that I had. I mean they didn't have that intelligence back of them, Gene Crowe from Bedford and Finly Gray from...I think he was from Marion and a Dr. Larrabee and Arthur Greenwood had been there twenty-odd years. He was the man who called the meeting and left me out and they didn't have...they weren't sought after much. Larrabee was the man that was chosen

as steering committee man from the two states but it took my vote to get it for him.

TK: And that concluded the first day's taping session with Mrs. Jenckes.

This is the second interview with Mrs. Virginia Jenckes, former Congresswoman from the Sixth District of Indiana.

TK: Did you have any special problems either at home or in Washington deriving from the fact that you were a lady Congressman?

VJ: Well, the only trouble that I had was with our own delegation. Our Indiana delegation ignored me in the beginning and had a conference, a caucus without calling me. But they were told in no uncertain terms by Joe Burns and Speaker Rainey that that didn't go; that they never did things like that in the Democratic caucuses and otherwise, I never found any handicap as I told Arthur Greenwood when I was fussing about having been left out that when my vote was counted, when any vote was counted nobody knew whether that vote was cast by a man or a woman. It was the result that counted. And that was the thing that I wanted to have done.

TK: In other words you had no special problems at all?

VJ: I had no special problems. The leading men were extremely helpful and gave me many opportunities to be of service. And one day I was invited down to lunch at the White House one Saturday. Mrs. Roosevelt was entertaining sixty of the leading Democratic women from the country. And a bill was under discussion and subject to vote on the floor. And the Speaker telephoned the White House and the White House

sent me up to the capitol to vote in the White House car and bring me back and let me finish the lunch. And when I got up, when we got back, and after lunch and speeches were being made, Mary Dewson, who was Mrs. Roosevelt's great friend and she had been secretary of the national committee, stood up and she said, "Women have made a great deal of progress under Franklin Roosevelt and it's time now for us to think of having a woman as President. Now we have in our midst such a woman, she's wonderful, she's capable, she's got everything she needs." She went on talking like that for about five minutes and sat down. Mrs. Roosevelt stood up and said, "Hee Hee Hee, Hoo Hoo Hoo". Didyou ever hear her laugh on the telephone?

TK: No.

VJ: So, as I say, I had the Speaker...I was out here in the midst of the campaign and when Sam Rayburn was Speaker and he had a petition he wanted signed, he telephoned out here for me one morning at 7:00 o'clock to catch a plane and come down and sign the petition. I drove to Indianapolis, caught a plane, got to Washington at 2:00 o'clock, was on the floor for a half an hour. I didn't even go over to my office, caught the plane back and was back here at 9:00 o'clock.

TK: Hum. That's really something.

VJ: It's satisfaction to feel that people had that much confidence in me.

TK: Well, I think you're correct in saying that you didn't have any real problems then.

VJ: I didn't have any trouble with anybody.

TK: Yeah. Well, that's good. As a second point here, we'd like to talk about the reciprocal trade agreements of 1934. You were opposed to these agreements and we'd like your reasons as to why you were against such agreements.

VJ: Well, in the first place things were coming into this country. Our army was being fed by...with beef from Argentina when we couldn't sell our own cows to the market. Out in the Dakotas and out west where the army was encamped were these great pens marked "Argentine beef". You see the best beef at that time was packed in Argentina because they didn't have freezing facilities and if a ship left with good beef in the larder they had to do something with it because they couldn't keep it until the next ship so they canned it. And then our army bought it. Well, I was objecting and on the floor one day I was talking and I said I didn't...of course, Argentine beef was shy in calcium. Their pastures down there don't have as much calcium as ours do. So I said I didn't see why we were developing a weak-kneed army. And then from another viewpont when the reciprocal trade treaty was put into effect ...before that the Davis gardens, which at that time was the biggest under-glass acreage in the world, are here in Terre Haute and they grew tomatoes and cucumbers and had...all through the depression they had paid better than twenty-five hundred dollars a year income tax. They were employing about five hundred women. That was pretty good for that time and when the reciprocal trade treaty came in and this fruit,

cucumbers and tomatoes, mushrooms and all were allowed to come in from Puerta Rico and Cuba free of duty and our people had shipped a consignment of stuff down to New York, instead of being able to ask the prices they needed, they had to meet the price from Cuba. Now, Cuban products were developed... they didn't use commercial fertilizer. They used human fertilizer and slave labor, peon labor and that, our people had to use commercial fertilizer and pay a good...for that time a fair wage. Well, of course, the Davis people had a terrible time. They just pretty nearly went broke. They're still in business but they're not doing anything like they did before that. And those two items alone would have convinced me that we needed to think about ourselves.

TK: What type of opposition did you run into as far as yourself?

VJ: Well, all of the administration, Agriculture and State Departments, the White House. Of course, they were under cover with their opposition but they objected to what I was trying to do and we made a big fight for these Davis people but we never did get their stuff where they could get it down there satisfactorily any more.

TK: What kind of opinion did you have from the people in your area, constituency?

VJ: They didn't know. They weren't interested.

TK: They weren't interested?

VJ: Of course, the Davis people were. And I didn't get any help from the Chamber of Commerce. You know, I don't know why people were particularly lethargic and uninterested in things, even things...Now, that concerned everybody in Terre Haute. Mr. Davis, the originator of the hot houses,

came here from Iowa. After looking over many, many places, he found more days of sunshine here in Terre Haute than anyplace else. And he came here because of that and because of the railroad facilities and you would have thought that Terre Haute needed that industry. You would have thought that the people would have gone to the rescue but nobody... nobody ever called up and said they would be glad to help me. And I didn't get any help from the Indiana delegation.

TK: This was what I was going to ask you next. What type of... you didn't get any...

VJ: No, they didn't care.

TK: You didn't...nothing at all.

VJ: They were...well, it meant something to the whole state 'cause other industries were up against the same thing. You take this Argentine beef. All the army beef...think of the army buying that when they were killing and slaughtering the pigs and steers here.

TK: What would you use as arguments as far as the nation goes in the reciprocal treaty? What arguments for the whole nation not to have...

VJ: Well, I don't think they had very many.

TK: Uh-huh. No arguments. No arguments at all? Well I think if we have no more on that subject...can you think of anything else that you wanted to add to that at all?

VJ: No, those were the two fights that I had.

TK: Um-huh.

VJ: You see, that was the only thing that really concerned the

Sixth District.

TK: I see.

VJ: The Davis Gardens...and the son-in-law, Keith Owen, came down to Washington a number of times and we went before the Agricultural Committee. I don't mean the committee in the House; I mean in the Department of Agriculture. But Henry Wallace was set on anything that was un-American.

TK: Um-huh. I see. And that's what...

VJ: Now, while I make that statement I want to clarify it. He afterwards came out with an article in the paper, after he'd been a candidate for President on the Communist ticket, he came out and said that he realized he'd made a mistake. I wanted to bring that in right there.

TK: Well, O.K., now, we have no more comments as far as reciprocal trade, no more comments?

VJ: No.

TK: Do you think that...

VJ: No, there wasn't anything in connection with communism and the reciprocal trade. It was just simply...of course, Henry Wallace was...when he was...When he was Secretary of Agriculture, he was a communist and it was...The development of the first communist cells were in the Department of Agriculture. That's where Alger Hiss and Whitaker Chambers got their training.

TK: I think the next point that we want to cover is, did you feel that the U.S. recognition of the Soviet Union late in 1933 was desirable and perhaps you might also mention was the House

involved in any way in this?

VJ: I was decidedly opposed to the recognition of the Soviet Union. Before I ever got to Washington I was opposed to it. And that summer that...Roosevelt's campaign, this woman in Washington who had great social position and political influence went to the Amtorg Association in New Nork. You know they were the distributing agency for all Russian caviar and vodka, and Russia made beautiful linens and things like that and this Amtorg Association under that guise had... did business in New York, but they were also putting out an awful lot of propaganda. And this woman in Washington is dead now, but she went to the head of this Amtorg and she said, "Now, I feel that our country should recognize you, your country, and I have a great position in Washington, both social and political", which she did have and she said, "I'm perfectly willing and want to use it to that end to get you recognized but I'll have to be reimbursed, have to be paid." So they agreed, the Amtorg man and this lady on fifteen thousand dollars, a three thousand dollar retainer fee and twelve thousand dollars when, as and if, we recognized the Soviet Union. The three thousand dollars were three one thousand dollar bills and she couldn't use them. Thousand dollar bills are very hard to get rid of so she put them in her safety deposit. She couldn't even put them in her bank account. She put them in her safety deposit and Ickes came along and through his efforts and a letter, the recognition of the Soviet Union was accomplished. Well, I was in the bank, in the Riggs National Bank in Washington talking with

the vice-president and a woman friend and I told the story I've just told you about this three thousand dollars with a little addition which I'll add, and the woman didn't believe me. Mr. Carr, the vice-president, said, "Oh, yes, it's true. That happened in this bank." When this woman kept after the Amtorg for her twelve thousand dollars, after about a year they gave her twelve one thousand dollar bills. And she waited some little time and finally, wanted something badly. She went to her safety deposit and took out one and took it up to the teller in the bank, handed it to him and asked him to change it for her. He looked at it, both sides, and said, "Where did you get this?" And she didn't hear him. He said, "Wait a minute." And he went away, about fifteen minutes he was back and he said, "The president wants to see you." And she went to see him and he said, "Where did you get this?" Well, she had to tell him. He said, "It's counterfeit." The first three were good because they knew they hadn't gotten what they wanted, but the last twelve were bad. When Senator Borah, whom you know by name, William A. Borah, died, Mrs. Borah, the Senator and Mrs. Borah were living at 2100... 2101 Connecticut, which was the swankest address in Washington at the time. And Mrs. Borah thought she didn't have enough money to continue to live there, but when they opened his accounts, his safety deposit and things, they found five hundred thousand dollars in one thousand dollar bills. That was the man that had the confidence of the American people. When I went to the Interparliamentary Union they had gone to

Russia on a paid trip. The Russians paid them and paid all of their expenses and gave them this trip to the Soviet Union. They offered me one.

TK: They did?

VJ: Um-huh.

TK: They offered you a trip, did they? Did they offer you a trip?

VJ: They offered me two hundred thousand dollars and a free trip for myself and daughter to Russia if I'd stop my fight against communism.

TK: Um-huh.

VJ: I've never been to Russia and I've never seen two hundred thousand dollars.

TK: You might, just for a second, tell me...tell us what the Interparliamentary Union was.

VJ: Well, Grover Cleveland in 1885, 1895, when he was President, organized the Interparliamentary Union. At that time it had about forty of the civilized nations of the world. To be eligible for membership one had to have been elected to the congress or the parliament of their own country, and, of course, when I was there in '37, none of these new nations had come into it. The United States was the biggest country that belonged. Russia didn't belong. I don't know whether they do now or not. I have forgotten, but our Congress had never sent a woman before and I was very anxious to go. I wanted to see what was going on, what the world was and we met...this session was in Paris. We met in the senate wing

of the Luxembourg and one afternoon...I was about the only one...there were sixteen...there were thirty-one delegates from our Congress, sixteen ...there were thirty-one delegates from our Congress, sixteen from the Senate and fifteen from the House but...and Barkley was president of our American branch. Most of the members...well, they...most of them had the headache and they didn't go very often. But I rarely... I don't think I missed a session because in the first place, I could understand enough French and most of the translation was in French. And then I made a little speech and I, among other things, asked the delegates to tell their wives and sisters and sweethearts that we American women were tired of furnishing fodder for cannons and that we wanted peace and wanted the world to live together. And when I finished and took my seat the speaker of the session came down and thanked me and said it was the best speech. Now, I've got a record of part of that. I haven't got the record of the speaker coming down to speak to me, but I've got a record of my speech in the record of that session of the Interparliamentary Union. And while we were there the Spain, the troubles in Spain were just starting and the Spaniards, the Communist Spaniards had gotten into the chamber over there and elected their own delegates and they locked the door and kept the other people out. Well, both delegations came to Paris and believe you me, they fought like Kilkenny cats. You weren't safe going out because they were shooting and things like that. And the Italians were doing the same thing, they were the Communists and the Democrats, I think,

is what they called themselves, were fighting each other for seats and recognition on the floor and one afternoon in particular, one of the Italians offered a resolution which was very communistic and somebody else didn't like it and they took out their guns and commenced shooting and you should have seen me get down in the pigeon-hole under the desk. But the guards came and they didn't let it last long. But that was a beginning. They had never had anything like that before in the Interparliamentary Union, this fighting. It was a beautiful experience. It was something you'd remember and something to be proud of that I was able to go and while my message didn't carry far, at the same time it's on record that we didn't want any more war.

TK: Right. Is there anything more that you want to add to that at all about the Interparliamentary Union, nothing else?

VJ: I don't know of anything interesting. After I left the conference, these people who had had the deck chairs next to mine on going over, had invited me, they were driving... they were Gulf Oil people and they were driving a Lincoln 12 and they invited me to join them. They wanted me to go right from the boat but I had an official passport and I had this duty in Paris but I joined them in Munich and from '34 I was on Hitler's mailing list. I got all of the propaganda that he sent out and he wrote me a little letter thanking me and congratulating me on the fight I was making against communism. He didn't know that I didn't care whether it was communism or naziism or what...so long as it was un-American

and that man that worked with him that died over here in Baltimore recently, but not so very recently but lately was quite...he was in the office once. I went to Washington a local person. I thought that we...I was an isolationist. I thought America was here with the ocean on both sides; that we didn't need anybody. We could produce everything here that we needed but spices. Well, it didn't take me long. I now number five Chinese children who call me great-grandmother and their families...their parents' families were all liquidated by the Chinese Communists. I number among my friends Hungarians, who were refugees first from Hitler and the Germans and then after the communists took over, others got out. And it's quite...keeps you alive.

TK: Right, I'll bet it does. You mentioned something about the fact that the Russians or the communists offered some money to you. How did they go about doing this? I mean...

VJ: They went to the clerk in my office.

TK: They just actually came right up and...

VJ: Came right out.

TK: ...and asked you?

VJ: Well, after Ickes brought about the recognition, they opened the Soviet Embassy. They never had anything there I wasn't invited to and if they had a dinner, Troyanovsky was the first ambassador and Troyanovski had been in power in this country, in the blowing up, in the explosion of the river towns in New Jersey in World War I. Troyanovsky's wife was eligible for membership in the DAR. [Laughter] I started to say everything they did at the embassy, they always invited me

and if it was a dinner, I was always seated next to Troyanovsky on his right and Sumner Welles on my left. And the two of them just played communism for a fare-ye-well to me. I said to the ambassador, I said, "Well, Mr. Ambassador, you know Russia can have any kind of government they want and I won't interfere, but", I said, "you promised, your country promised if we would give you recognition and admit you that you wouldn't do what you're doing."

TK: Why did the communists, shall we say, pick on you, that is...

VJ: Well, because I was the most active one in the House.

TK: You were the most active?

VJ: I was the most active. Well, in the first place, I don't know whether I've mentioned what was going on ... yes, I did this morning in the district schools, the effort to spread communism and to gain these poor children...and...they were... I was...they introduced a resolution, tied it to an appropriation bill, making it mandatory that every teacher before she could get her salary, should swear that she had not advocated communism that month. You never heardsuch a rumpus in all your life. Now we didn't have an "aye and nay" vote; we had a teller vote on that. You know what a teller vote is? The Speaker appoints a Democrat and a Republican, one of each party, we'll say; and they stand in the middle aisle, one on either side. At first he calls for the "ayes" and the people who are in favor of whatever's under discussion go through. And they are counted one at a time. It beats counting by hand and yet it doesn't put anybody on record.

TK: I see. Right.

VJ: Now, at that particular time that I'm speaking of and this resolution that we were trying to get through to stop communism in the district schools, Munsey's Magazine came out with an article on "The Commonwealth College in Ardeena, Kansas". It's a small college. I don't know where Ardeena is, but it's in Arkansas and the parents of some of the children issued a warrant for the arrest of their own children and the president of the college. The sheriff went with the warrant and the president opened the door. And the sheriff handed it to him. He said, "Come in. There they are." On the floor, on mattresses, were twenty-five mattresses with a boy and a girl on each mattress. That's the reason the parents had...And all of this literature that...I don't know whether your library has that old copy of Munsey's but I've got one. That's why I would so much rather have you down than have this down in Washington because these things...I've got a lot of the proof down there and then it's another thing just to sit up here and talk it like this.

TK: Yeah, that's right.

VJ: Now, going back to the communists, Harry Hopkins was one of them.

TK: He was?

VJ: Oh, yes, decidedly. And he was...when he first came to Washington, the first dinner that I was invited to at the White House, he was sent, he and Mrs. Hopkins came in the White House car for me to go down to the dinner and that

was before Diana was born, just a little while.

TK: That would be what date?

VJ: Huh?

TK: Approximately what date would that be?

VJ: '33.

TK: About '33.

VJ: '34. Yeah. I was elected late in '32 so it would be '33 or '34, maybe '33 but Diana wasn't here. But coming home Mrs. Hopkins said, "Harry, if I'm to go to the White House, I'll have to have a new fur coat." And I never heard a man curse a woman in my life as he cursed her, with all the foul language, "How do you think I can get you a fur coat when I'm a poor...nothing but a poor social service worker?" Well, it was very uncomfortable for me to sit there in the back seat with them, but anyway another time that he expressed himself, we had an appropriation bill up for WCA[?] and Harry was in the Speaker's office, private office, while the debate was going on the floor and some of us were sent in there once in awhile to talk to him and keep him from being lonseome. And when my turn came to be one of them, there were about ten other members in the room, and I said, "Well, Harry, I'm going to support this appropriation but I'd like to know who's going to have the say in the Sixth District as to who shall get the benefits of the labor." "It's none of your God damned business." Now, this isn't pretty language but it isn't mine. "All under the sun that Congress is good for is to appropriate the money and then

go home and let me spend it as I God damn please." Now, that was the man that for years was running the country. He was A-1 with Mrs. Roosevelt. So, as I say, I don't like to use those words but after all, I can't give it unless I say them, unless I tell you.

TK: That's right. Tell it the way it was and the truth, that's right.

VJ: If I just said that Harry said that all Congress was good for was to go home and let me spend the money as I want to, it would sound very frail, wouldn't it?

TK: Yes, it would. It wouldn't mean as much. Now, that's right. I think we'll go back once again to the first part of this... In other words, you felt that the recognition of the Soviet Union right at the beginning was undesirable. You didn't want to have anything to do with it?

VJ: I didn't ever want to have anything to do with it.

TK: Oh.

VJ: You can't trust them.

TK: And you knew this. I mean you could see this.

VJ: I knew it. Before I ever went to Washington, Hamilton Fish had had a hearing, had conducted a hearing and had it printed on the communist effort and somehow that thing came into my hands and I read every word of it so that when I went to Washington, I was prepared for a great deal. And then as I say, I saw this thing and I saw this money distributed. Prior ...While I was in Congress, I knew what was going on and prior to '39 better than seventy-nine million dollars a year

was brought into this country for propaganda purposes. Well, now who gets it? You can depend upon the Italians and the Russians and the Germans; England did a little bit; France did a speck; but the big aggressors and the enemies of the country were Italy and Russia and Germany and Japan. Now they're all clever, every last one of them. And who did they go after with this money. The school teachers, the newspapers and the preachers. Those are the three most underpaid lines of endeavor that we have in this country. Those were the ones. That's the reason that you found so much communism in the district in public schools, or in colleges, that's the reason you find it in the colleges today. Look at the spies, look at this thing that's just come out about the association of...the science foundation. I don't know whether you've seen that in the paper but I expect you have. Now, those are the people that are getting the benefit of this money that's coming in from other countries. Of course, Japan isn't doing any of it now, but why they ever let that Japanese situation grow the way they did. They knew...and when a man like George Marshall can occupy that kind of position and the next week not remember where he was that Saturday night...

TK: What...

VJ: I made a speech in November after I came back from the Interparliamentary Union. The State Department and the Navy gave me information that they wanted spread. So I got an invitation to speak to the Daughters of the American Revolution. At that time I belonged to the society.

Ex-Lieutenant Commander Farnsworth was serving a sentence in Atlanta for having sold our secrets of defense to Japan. And the time was ripe for him to be paroled and Roosevelt wanted to parole him. You could fairly go out in the parks and pick the Japanese money off the trees that they were spreading to create a demand for Farnsworth's parole. Well, the State and Navy didn't want him paroled so they asked me to make a speech that would put out some information...Now, this was six weeks before the Panay was sunk. The Panay, do you remember, was sunk about four years before Pearl Harbor and it was sunk in Chinese waters by Japanese. And I made this speech to the DARs and told them about how the Japanese had made a traitor of this fine American citizen and why did they, if they were so friendly, why did they want to be...know our way of defense? Now, the thing he sold...He played poker at the Japanese Embassy. He'd take his brief case with his papers in it and always won at the poker table, check his brief case with his overcoat and while he was playing poker just as Senator Borah played pinocle on the top floor of the Russian Embassy and always won, Farnsworth was playing it at the Japanese Embassy and always winning. And while he was playing these papers would be microfilmed. Well, he was found guilty and I told the DARs that and asked them for a resolution to ask the President not to parole him. Do you believe it, that I was damned for everything you could think of. Now, I was, as I said, I was a DAR but would they support me?

No. And that night on his radio program, Bob Carter came out, Bob Carter, do you know him? Well, he was a commentator in the, oh, from all through the '30's. He claimed to be British and he spoke with a very strong British accent. His father was British. His father and mother were British, but they were sent from Liverpool to Baku, Russia, by the chamber of commerce and that's where Bob was born. That's how he got his name and he was always pro-Russian and pro-Japanese and the night after I made this speech he devoted his whole fifteen minutes to me. He just said that I was a sob-sister; that it showed that women weren't fit for public office and that I wanted to chop down those beautiful cherry trees and oh, a lot of poppyrot like that. Well, of course, I had the privilege of an hour on the floor and I could say anything in that and not be sued for it. So I got the Immigration Department to give me his record. He had never taken out citizenship in this country until I think the early '30's. Anyway he had made these numerous trips back and forth bringing Japenese into the country illegally through Tampico, Mexico. And he was a communist from the very word, go. The communists finally ended his life.

TK: Is that right?

VJ: They fed him strychnine or some kind of slow poison but after and oh, you know, at the time that I'm speaking of, he had the contract with General Foods, a marvelous contract at that time, loads of money in it for broadcasting. Well, after I got through with him, he lost that contract and he never got another one. He'd get one and then I'd send them

a copy of his national record and then he wouldn't get it renewed. He never got one for over three months at the time after that, but he was as wholly un-American and as I tell you, he was coming in and backwards and forwards and he never supported his wife. I think he had two sons, never supported his wife and his children until after the Roosevelts came in and then in the last few years they lived in luxury until he got to going too strong and I was a sob-sister. [Laughter]

TK: But that was it, huh?

VJ: So you see my Congressional experience, you asked if it was controversial...

TK: Yes, I can see your point. Now, can you tell me how much of the House was involved in the recognition of the Soviet Union? I mean...

VJ: None.

TK: I mean, no one?

VJ: No, you see in the first place, the House has no voice according to the Constitution. Peace treaties must be ratified by the Senate.

TK: Right.

VJ: The House has nothing to do with it. The House has no voice in foreign policy. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is the thing.

TK: I see. What was the...What I sort of meant was, what was the feeling of some of the other House members besides yourself on this...

VJ: They didn't say anything.

TK: They...not too many of them said?

VJ: Well, when I made the speech against him, I had a full House.

TK: Well, you couldn't find anyone else to back you?

VJ: You know, people were just unconscious of it and it's queer. Now there was a man named Andy May from Paducah, Kentucky, who had been there a good many years and during World War II he became involved with the Garcite [?] Brothers in an effort to rob the government...or to do the government in medicine through this concern in Connecticut and he was charged with it, tried, found guilty and sentenced and was serving a penitentiary sentence for having cheated the government and his birthday came around. Now, he was drawing a salary, I mean he was drawing a pension for having been a Congressman. They passed that law after I was out of Congress and he was drawing his pension and had been a congressman for a good many years and do you know that leading members on both sides of the aisle, the Democrats and Republicans, oh, probably a half a dozen of each stood up and praised that man? Now, you know to my mind things are either black or white. He had done wrong in more ways than just that one time. I happen to have known. This man, [Boycutt?], who recently was tried and found guilty and served a sentence, somebody last winter introduced a bill to reimburse him for the money that he had been forced to pay back to this... Now, they shouldn't...People should have faith in their

representatives but their representatives should demand honesty from their own kind.

TK: Very good. Now is there anything else that you want to add to that then as far as the recognition of the Soviet Union goes?

VJ: I don't know of any.

TK: Any other little comments at all?

VJ: Well, of course, in the middle of this Hungarian Revolution recently, we were up against the Soviet Union but that didn't come until after I was out of Congress.

TK: Well, we'll come onto that a little later on then. All right. Let's switch to another question here. When did you first feel that the Soviet Union constituted a serious threat to our security?

VJ: Well, I told you when...before I ever went to Washington, when I read this hearings before Hamilton Fish but when Hamilton Fish, after I was down there...and when Hitler was on the coming up, Hamilton Fish had a son who delivered the morning Post in Washington and every edition of the Post that son of Hamilton Fish's delivered had Hitler's propaganda in it and, of course, you know Hamilton Fish's frank was used to send out Hitler propaganda and instead, Hamilton put it off onto his secretary and the secretary went to the penitentiary. You see, it's a criminal offense to use your frank for anything but official business and the secretary was putting out this Hitler propaganda. Of course, it was Hamilton Fish that was doing it. And now that was

Hamilton Fish, was the son, grandson, great grandson of the signer of the Constitution.

TK: Well, I think maybe we've covered that fairly well, then as far as posing a threat to our security. I think you've probably covered this somewhat too but you may have some things which you want to add.

VJ: That, I think it is pretty well covered by the efforts that I made.

TK: The various speeches and so on that you made, the various speeches that you made.

VJ: The speeches that I made and the efforts and, of course, it's not just this thing of taking...Bob Carter off the air was a big thing because he was spreading his propaganda and the DARs from out here when I made that speech all wrote protest letters to me. Bob Carter was so inspiring. He was so full of things. Of course, he was inspiring.

TK: Were there actually any...I don't know whether you've mentioned it or not. Were there actually any threats on your life because of the stand you took?

VJ: Oh, yes.

TK: Well, can you mention any of them that you can recall that are interesting or anything?

VJ: Well, wasn't the shot that was put through my windshield in my car when I was in it one?

TK: That's one, yes.

VJ: And I couldn't tell you how many telephone calls even

after I was out of Congress for about three years, I had these telephone calls and threats and letters telling me that I could watch out and while my daughter was living she'd get them and they'd tell her that I didn't need to worry; that I'd find her and myself both face up in the Potomac.

TK: Well...

VJ: It used to worry her a great deal.

TK: But not you?

VJ: No, I just didn't think they'd ever dare.

TK: I see.

VJ: But it was hard to make her think that.

TK: Yeah, I suppose. Well, we'll go to another point. Was being anti-communist a difficult role for a Democrat member of the House in the middle '30's or I suppose for any real member of the House in the '30's, being anti-communist?

VJ: Yeah, it was quite difficult at times because there were liberals there who didn't approve of the things I was doing. And, of course, it was very diffidult with Mrs. Roosevelt.

TK: Was it? Well, can you talk about that a little bit and make...

VJ: Well, as I said in the beginning there never was...I was invited to the White House more than most anybody else because...well, not because it was Virginia Jenckes but it was this: I was an ingenue; I had never done anything political; I didn't come from a family of politicians. Nobody knew the story I just told you about the county agents wanting me and offering to finance my campaign was the reason that I got there because the politicians didn't

want me and then this work on the Wabash River but when it was announced that the eighteen million dollars which was recommended by the engineers had been allocated and the Terre Haute Tribune carried the eighteen million dollars in a streamer across the top of the page on Sunday morning, I flew out to be here that day and Mrs. Roosevelt flew out on the same plane. Whether she knew I was going on it or not I don't know but she went on west. Wherever the plane stopped, of course, she got off. It was known she was on the plane and she got off and then I had to follow. When we got here, I said, "Now, Mrs. Roosevelt, this is my home town and I'm here for that eighteen million dollars. I'm going first." [Laughter] Which was probably bad policy but nevertheless... and then the committee, some of the people out there with great huge bunches of American Beauty roses for both of us. And, of course, she made the fatal error of giving me her bunch. She should have taken it. And she never made a speech that she didn't get fifteen hundred dollars for. And you were asking about labor...Colgate came to, you know, the president of the Colgate Soap Company, who are operating down in Southern Indiana now in a plant, came to Terre Haute and wanted to put the plant here and Mr. Colgate came into the office to see me about it and we talked about it and he was very much enthused about coming here and he came out and he went...at that time a man named [Milton Hurs?] was operating what is, I believe now, Aldens' down here in this block, ready-to-wear shop, and he went to several of the merchants around

and they told him they didn't want any new industry in Terre Haute; that they didn't want anybody coming in here that would make them pay more for their help than they were paying. And I was negotiating, or rather the clerk in my office was negotiating with Colgate for me to make a fifteen minute talk once a week on radio. You know Malvina Thompson, who was Mrs. Roosevelt's secretary, heard of it and went to Colgate and said Mrs. Roosevelt would take it, fifteen hundred a week. And, of course, I didn't have a chance.

TK: While you're on the topic or the subject, apparently you knew Mrs. Roosevelt fairly well. What was she like really? Can you give me some kind of an estimate?

VJ: Well, she was a peculiar woman. I never liked her. Well, in the first place, take their marital record, the marital record of the family, eight or nine divorces among five children. Now, there was something wrong there somewhere. Of course, when you came in, now, did I tell this this morning about saying that if Virginia had studied her history the way I wanted? Well, when it came in that Roosevelt's nomination had been made unanimous...

TK: This was in when now, '32?

VJ: Yeah, '32, that was the year. We were all in the sunroom down at our house and a lot of Virginia's young friends were there. My friends thought when I entered politics that I'd just gone to the devil and Virginia said, "Mother, you're very quiet." And she said, "What's the matter?" "Well", I said, "I hoped we'd nominate a Democrat." "Why, mother,

Mr. Roosevelt's been twice Democratic Governor of a great state like New York. He's a fine gentleman." I said, "I'm not going to debate the question of his being a gentleman", but I said, "If you'd studied your American history the way I wanted you to, you would have known that Theodore Roosevelt wrecked the Republican party for his ambition", and I said, "If we live long enough we'll see Franklin Roosevelt do exactly the same thing because once a Roosevelt always a Roosevelt." And that was true. Theodore Roosevelt, when he couldn't get the nomination for that second term, created the Bull Moose and Ickes went with him and I don't remember who the other Bullmoosers were but nevertheless, the division gave Woodrow Wilson the opportunity to be President. Otherwise, Grover Cleveland was the only Democratic President since the days of the Civil War.

TK: Now, are there any other thoughts about Mrs. Roosevelt that you might mention, reasons why you didn't like her?

VJ: Well, I didn't like her because I thought she made a mistake. Her children were ill-mannered and I didn't want to see her President. We had in the House a member named Caroline O'Day from New York. Do you remember the name? Well, she was one of Mrs. Roosevelt's bridesmaids. Can you see it? She was one of Mrs. Roosevelts bridesmaids and she was a nice woman. She was a Georgia woman married to this old man O'Day of Standard Oil fame, and, oh, so much money nobody knew how to spend it. And she...Mrs. Roosevelt elected her. Well, there never was a time that she didn't go down the line for anything that was communist. For

instance, she was trying to get the people in California to free that man out there that was arrested and held for throwing the bomb into the crowd, things like that. And she was one of the first people who dyed her hair blue and some of the older members on the floor came over: "Virginia, what's the matter with Caroline's hair?" "Well", I said, "She just went to the beauty parlor and they fixed her up." "Well, ask her why she always wears her gloves." She never went on the floor without gloves on. Somebody had told her...and oh, they tried very hard to make her but she didn't get re-elected. She had done all these communistic things that Mrs. Roosevelt wanted done and many, many a time that people thought they heard Mrs. Roosevelt on the air, they were listening to Caroline O'Day. Their voices were just exactly alike.

This beins the third tape with Mrs. Virginia Jenckes, a former Congresswoman from the Sixth District of Indiana.

TK: Now, Mrs. Jenckes, could you tell us your appraisal of FDR as a man and as a President and leader of the United States?

VJ: Well, he was a very likeable person. He was jolly. He liked a good joke but he liked to play a trick like he did in the case of sending Joe Kennedy to England as an ambassador. He had promised Ira Morris of Chicago, who was one of the rich men in Chicago, the Nelson Morris Packing Company. He had promised him the portfolio to St. James, if elected. Mr. Morris had given him sixty thousand dollars for his campaign. Mr. Morris had likewise given J. Ham Lewis, the Senator James Hamilton Lewis, ten thousand dollars to watch his interests and to use in his campaign for the Senate. Well, Roosevelt after his election...Mr. Morris didn't hear from him and he didn't hear from Senator Lewis so he asked me to look after Mr. Lewis and I got into the picture that way and Mr. Roosevelt before election had definitely promised. Now, Ira Morris was our candidate to Denmark during World War I, I mean our ambassador, and he was decorated by every one of the allies of the United States. He was decorated particularly for his humane efforts in the exchange of prisoners of war. Now, he was a Jew; he was the son of the Nelson Morris that came to this country from France before the Civil War and he settled in Chicago and made a great fortune and Ira didn't like being a Jew and he didn't like the meat packing business so he became a statesman and he made this marvelous record as an ambassador to Denmark. Well then, he

voted Democratic and he asked Roosevelt for the portfolio to St. James and Roosevelt promised it to him. Then Roosevelt said he thought it would be a good joke to send an Irishman to England because the English and the Irish hated each other so. So he sent Joe Kennedy. While Mr. Kennedy was there he was playing with Hitler and everything against the British and the British asked our country to call him home. So you couldn't...Mr. Roosevelt suffered extremely and if he promised you something in the morning and somebody else came along with another proposition, he'd forget his promise to you, which I don't think goes well with a politician, with anybody in any sphere of life but that Kennedy story is a very...I knew Ira Morris quite well after that and I had occasion to believe what he said. And when he was so disappointed...Again when Sherman Minton wanted to be on the Supreme Court and Roosevelt gave him an impression that he could have it, and turned around and gave it to Hugo Black. We were all in this same trip to the conference at the Interparliamentary Union and when we came...Sherman Minton behaved scandalously and pouted so on the boat going over but when we got back...And Black was going up the steps of the Supreme Court building one of the Washington papers had the cleverest cartoon you can imagine. Here was Black going up the steps with his judicial robes on and below his black robe a line of white about like that and on it "KKK". [Laughter] So they...Mr. Roosevelt played both ends against the middle and he never had been a success as a lawyer.

TK: He wasn't?

VJ: Huh-uh. Does that cover your...

TK: Well, I thought anything that you want to comment on Roosevelt at all, anything that you might want to say about him.

VJ: Well, I think...

TK: That's about it?

VJ: Well, I couldn't say much more than that he didn't keep his word.

TK: No. He did seem to be quite a humanitarian I mean as far as policy in the New Deal?

VJ: He suffered...oh, I know what I started to say. He suffered extremely and if he'd promise someone something in the daytime and Mrs. Roosevelt would go in there just before he went to bed, he'd forget his promise and she'd get the thing she wanted and really she and Harry Hopkins ran the government. And Harry Hopkins and Ickes...Ickes was having a meeting in his office in the early days of CWA to see what could go on to help the people and restore their confidence in their country and business and I was one of them called down there. There were fifteen of us. And I said, "Well, Mr. Ickes, the thing that..." "Now, that's enough. You can't tell me anything about the Wabash River that I don't already know." So I didn't get my little say in about the Wabash.

TK: You didn't get it in at all?

VJ: Huh-uh. But we did get...it was through WPA or CWA, one of those things that the eighteen million dollars was allocated. And that was what the Army Engineers had said would be

necessary. And after I made this announcement here and Tom O'Mara wanted to know who was going to spend it and they organized this group to come down to Washington and tell the Army and they went down there with an appointment with Lytle Brown, who was Chief of Engineers, and told him that they didn't want Wabash River Flood Control. And [_____?] from Vincennes was one of the ones and he had farmland under water more times than almost anybody but he was listening to Dick Werneke and all these people who said if they allowed that to go through that it would make me the most powerful person in Indiana and they couldn't have that. Now, I wouldn't give a snap for power. The thing I'm interested in, this is the country my grandparents and my great grandparents fought the Indians for. They worked for it. My great grandfather helped...think of travelling this country through here when the Indians were around with just a Negro body servant...But they wouldn't let it go. And they never have gotten flood control and the engineers tell me they never will.

TK: What was the reason? What arguments that your opponents used against flood control? Why didn't they want it?

VJ: Well, because, they said it would make me...if they let my efforts go through and this eighteen million dollars be used and comfort come to the people, it would make me the most powerful person in Indiana.

TK: I see. No others advocated the flood control then?

VJ: Oh, they all...I had the organization of ten thousand members. They all wanted it.

TK: You were the first actually?

VJ: I was the first one to start the movement and...

TK: And it carried on after you?

VJ: And, of course, they're carrying on to a certain extent now but they're not very active in it and the same political situation is bound to be under cover.

TK: What would be the reasons today that we don't have?

VJ: Well, I don't know. They just don't...I don't think they work together enough. Now in...we had a flood, as I say we had nine floods in fourteen months and I had this farm of 260 acres up in Parke County, 100 acres in the river bottom, which was under a company dike, levee and the river went over the top and we had a lot of trouble and it went over the top of my levee down here at the other farm. And I built a levee with a dragline and put in three thousand sand bags overnight in one weak spot. So these farmers, these eighty-five men that owned land up in Parke County, asked me to come to the meeting. When I got to the meeting they elected me to the board and then the board elected me president. Imagine. And we were walking the levee. There was eight miles of it. We were walking it and there was one place that needed repair badly. And the engineer that they had engaged was there. Well, I said, "That's not the place to put that thing." "Well, where would you put it?" "Well, I don't know but that's not the place to put it." "Well, what would you do?" "Well, I'd ask the Army Engineers." "Where are they?" I said they were in Washington. "Well, how we going to

see them? Well, would you go down there?" "Oh", I said, "It would cost an awful lot of money to go down there." They said, "How much?" "Oh", I said, "It would cost at least a hundred and fifty dollars." "Well, I'll tell you, We'll each one give you two dollars and you go down there." Well, it was their confidence more than the question of the money and Everett Sanders who was secretary to Coolidge and he had been a member of the House. And before he went to Washington he was a clerk in our lawyer's office here so I wrote Everett that I was coming down and that I wanted an appointment with the Chief of Engineers. Oh, he couldn't get that. Well, I said, "You have to, I have to have it." So I went down and I went to the White House to see him and we made the appointment with this General Lytle Brown, who was a peach, and the next day my appointment was 10:00 o'clock in the morning and Everett sent the White House car to the hotel for me and I went over to the Army Engineers's office. I never was so scared in all my life. The Munitions Building is about a thousand feet long and the White House car stopped at the far end from where I wanted to be and these blueprints just shook up and down like that. But when I got in I started talking and General Deakyne said, "There isn't a word you've said that I don't know is perfectly true", and he said, "You haven't told me half." And I says, "I'll tell you", and got a notice out from his desk, a printed copy of a bill listing the rivers in the United States that were entitled to the federal help. Now, he says, "The Wabash River should

take precedence over all of them. It's the most principal connection in the states", but he said, "Here it is listed alphabetically", and he said, "Nobody will ever live long enough to see them get to it." But he said, "I have the authority to put it first." And he sat down and sent a telegram to the Louisville branch to meet me at Clinton and do anything I wanted done. And that was the beginning of the effort to get federal help on the Wabash River. Our Jim Watson and our many representatives had never done a thing about it. And it was a lot of satisfaction to have that man...and then as I said it used to amuse my mother a great deal. She didn't have any sympathy with my agricultural efforts. And when people would ask me how many people were in our White [River?] Dike and Levee Association, I always says, "Oh, seventy-five men and me." But it was working with those farmers and you know forty years ago the farmers were a different class of people. They hadn't merged into the outside world the way they have today. I digressed when I brought that in.

TK: That's all right.

VJ: But that was one of my pre-congressional efforts that really was a satisfaction and it was a great thing to have done. it gave me more...they were the people who helped defeat the machine.

TK: Well, then besides your anti-communist stand in Congress, what else would you feel you accomplished, that you stood for?

RJ: Well, I got the flag bill put through and I got a post office

in Danville and Rockville and Crawfordsville, and that one over there...that one over there had been started under... Noble Johnson and the depression came along and the contractor had overdrawn his account and there wasn't any money left to finish it. It was boarded up, the post office paying three thousand dollars a year for this building right here so the first thing I had to do was to go get new appropriations to finish this building, but we got that. I got a city hall here and a penitentiary down south of town and an army chemical something or other up at Newport. I don't know right off. Did I say a post office in Greencastle?

TK: I don't believe so. No.

VJ: Well, all those post office buildings.

TK: Well, that's quite an accomplishment.

VJ: Oh, and rural electrification.

TK: Um-huh.

VJ: I worked very hard with Congress to get the bill put through and in return for my efforts, the first county in the United States to have rural electrification was Boone County. So that's another thing for the district.

TK: I imagine many of your constituents would agree with you on that, for the bill. Many of your constituents would probably agree on that, wouldn't they, on the bill?

VJ: Well, they, of course, you know the ingratitude...I shouldn't say ingratitude...the lack of gratitude, the lack of appreciation of people for efforts put forth in their behalf... you'd be surprised. If one was looking for a reward it'd be very much disappointing.

TK: Well, we've fairly well covered your time in Washington, then. Is there anything else that you would want to comment about that happened during your time in Washington.

VJ: Well, after I was out of Congress, there were several things, like for instance, my connection in that Hungarian Revolution.

TK: Well, o.k.

VJ: We'll take that tomorrow.

TK: Well, we'll get to that in a minute. I thought maybe you might want to...in finishing up this then you might want to tell why you lost the election in '38? Anything you want to say?

VJ: Well, I didn't lose. They took the ballots out of the box.

TK: They took the ballots out?

VJ: The ballots were taken out of the box and a man in Attica printed the ballots that were put back and it took them from Tuesday until Friday to announce that I wasn't elected. When I was going back to Washington I stopped at Democratic Headquarters in Indianapolis, and Sherman Minton was there and he said, "Well, Virginia, it looks now as though you were defeated. The thing for you to do is to go home and keep your mouth shut and get ready to run next time." And I said, "I don't intend to do either one." I said, "There's no use under the circumstances of ever making the effort to run again with the spirit that is over there and the control. I got to Washington and the New York Times and St. Louis Globe Democrat, the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Chicago Tribune offered me space on the front page for a statement

which I refused. I said, "If I raise a rumpus, they will say, 'women can't take defeat'." And I said, "I'm not going to hurt other women by weeping now." I wasn't like Joe Martin.

TK: When you say, "they took the ballots out of the box", who do you mean?

VJ: Well, who do I mean?

TK: When you say, "they took the ballots out?"

VJ: Huh?

TK: When you say, "They took the ballots out"?

VJ: Dick Werneke and Tom O'Mara and Jim Fagan and Jerry Shandy, the Democrats here who were controlling the election. There was a man from Clinton whose name I have forgotten came down to the house in one of the campaigns. I had a great big fat colored cook and as I said we had made my house into two apartments. And upstairs between the kitchen and the sun room, I had a deep window so that we could pass things out from the kitchen and eat in the sun room. And my daughter was living and she saw the shape of a gun in this man's pocket. He had come down to tell me that they had decided to let me be elected and my confidential clerk was there in the room with this Clinton man and myself and Virginia went to the kitchen. And this great big fat colored girl opened the window from the kitchen into the sun room and she stood there with a butcher knife like this in her hands. [Laughter]

TK: Did he leave then?

VJ: He stayed long enough and then he left. He didn't look very comfortable with that butcher knife up there in the window.

TK: Now, who did win in '38?

VJ: Noble Johnson.

TK: Was he a Democrat?

VJ: Well no, he was a Republican.

TK: All right. A Democrat didn't win that time. They should have had you running.

VJ: Well you see I was the Democrat. This was not the primary. This was the fall election.

TK: I see.

VJ: And...

TK: Well, why would the Democrats take your ballots out of the box and allow a Republican to win?

VJ: Because they didn't want me down there.

TK: They didn't want you at all?

VJ: They couldn't control me.

TK: Oh, I see.

VJ: And they could control the...Look, they never would give me a job. I've never had any recognition from the party, nor any help. Noble Johnson was appointed to an Appellate Court in Washington by Harry Truman and Noble Johnson was just like that with Pendergast. He was involved...he was working with Pendergast. You know Tom Pendergast by name?

TK: Yes, oh yes, by name.

VJ: Tom Pendergast. Of course, I didn't know him except by name, but prior to '32, there was a very wonderful Senator from

Missouri named Jim Reed. He was very capable and a good man and Pendergast wanted him to do something but Jim Reed refused. Pendergast said to him the same thing they said to me. "You can't go back." And Pendergast made this statement that in order to make Reed's defeat as ignominious as possible, he got an absolutely unknown to make the race and the unknown was Harry Truman. And Harry Truman was involved...or Pendergast was involved with the rum runners. He was the head of the rum runners out of St. Louis.

TK: Well, that fairly well, then, covers your terms in office as far as you're concerned. You don't think of anything else that you want to...

VJ: Not now.

TK: ...comment on? Now, this is a little aside then...but you might...whether or not you have any opinion on the role of the press then and maybe today, whether or not you attempted to tell the public everything. I imagine this would be probably your line of thinking, wouldn't it or not?

VJ: Well, some of them were all right and some of them weren't. We've got one man here that's a whiz and that's Larry Sawyer. He won the medal or the citation for being the fairest editor in the United States. And you know to my mind that could be one of the greatest things in the world. He was a splendid man. Of course, the Star is Republican and I'm talking about a Republican now.

TK: Let's see. I think this is an interesting question here. What was your philosophy of representation; that is, did you

feel that you were to be the agent of the majority opinion within your district or did you vote as you judged each issue and try to bring the voters to your position?

VJ: I always felt with Jefferson that a public office is a public trust, and that if you have the confidence of the people and they give you a public office, you owe them the best of everything you've got. As I said in speaking of my connection at the time with Arthur Greenwood, the Constitution in speaking of the Congress as the Senate and the House of Representatives, and I have always wanted to be called the Representative. To me, to represent the people really had a meaning, and when they commenced and talked about Congressmen and Congresswomen, that just didn't go. We were all Representatives.

TK: I think that pretty well sums up, then, your philosophy of representation.

VJ: Well, as I said, to be the Representative of three hundred thousand people was a big responsibility and a great honor.

TK: Well, I think maybe then that we'll attempt to do some reminiscing about the period after your term in office. We'll reminisce a little bit on the period after your term in office...

VJ: Yeah.

TK: ...tomorrow.

VJ: Well...

[BREAK]

TK: Now, I believe there's some stories that you wanted to tell, while you were still in office and this might be a good time

to do it.

VJ: In 1928 before I ever had any idea of making a race for Congress, I was working under the George Peek Committee. I was head of the Independent Equality for Agriculture in Indiana among the women. And I went in one day to Danville to speak to the committee and to work with the committee and the committee chairman met me at the station and she said, "Now, we don't want you to mention prohibition. That is a dead issue here and don't cause us any trouble." Well, I said, "Oh, you don't have any trouble with your students here? I happen to have known that on the Sunday before a group of the students from Central Normal were over on 40 in one of the hot spots dancing on the table and having a grand time, but she said they didn't have any trouble. Well, I said, "You know I think prohibition is one of the causes of the breakdown of our laws." She said, "What do you mean?" I said, "I mean this, that when your children started to school, you said to them, 'Now, it's all right for mother to make this home brew, but don't say anything about it at school'. "How do you know I make home brew?" I said, "I didn't know it but I just happened to fall onto it." I said, "When you tell your children not to say something about what you're doing, you're putting in their eyes and minds the thought of not obeying the law." Well, she didn't like it very much and after all, that was one of the things, the men who had passed the prohibition law like Senator James Watson and some of those people were

enjoying all the privileges and all the benefits of an organization that they had created and Jim Watson went to Evansville in one of the campaigns later and he stood on the platform and said, "Everybody should be happy. The wets have their liquor and the drys have their law". He didn't know why everybody wasn't happy. Isn't that enough on prohibition?

TK: Yeah, I think that's probably pretty good. Now, I think that we can carry on now into some point...

VJ: And later after I was out of Congress, I went to Europe, went to England and France in 1951. Now the Labor government had been in England for six years and on the ship going over I was travelling with Mrs. Ira Morris who was the widow of our Ambassador to Denmark and we sat at the captain's table and, of course, with some of the British people and I was given an introduction to Lord Salisbury. Lord Salisbury was the minority leader in the House of Lords in the British Parliament. And when I got to London he asked me, he telephoned and asked me to have lunch with him and said he'd take me on the floor. Well, I said, "Please, your Honor, let me wait until just before I leave London. I'm ready to go on and then I'll be happy to come. But I think I'll know more then than I do now. So he waited until the day before I was to leave London when I went up to the House of Lords. And the six weeks that we were there I spent riding the tops of the busses in London, just up on one and back on another and asking questions of everybody that I could find. And, of course, the people who rode the

busses were the laboring people. There were great holes from the war where buildings had been torn down after the bombing raids but London was showing still the effect of the 1941 to '45 disaster. And everybody was dissatisfied. The English people had enough food but it was starchy. They didn't have any proteins. They were only allowed one egg a week. I could go into a restaurant anywhere in London while I was there and have two eggs for breakfast every day in the week if I wanted it. But the English people couldn't and they observed the law. Well, when I went up to the House of Lords to meet his Excellency, I said, "You know, Lord Salisbury, I believe if you call an election in October, you'll be successful." And perhaps it isn't out of order here to describe his office to you. He had one room. Now, mind, he was second in command in the House of Lords. He was the minority leader. He was the Charlie Halleck of the House of Representatives. He had one room. In that one room was one stenographer with one typewriter, two desks, a carpet lounge, two chairs and a railing. Well, we had lunch and met a good many of the members and then went back to his office and sat on this carpet lounge and talked and I again repeatedly, I said to him, "If you call an election, I think you'll be successful." "Oh no", he says, "It couldn't be." And I went on to tell him what I had been doing, how I'd asked everybody, I'd stop anybody on the street that looked kind of tired and worn out and ask them a question in order to get them into conversation.

So he did call the election and everybody knows that it was successful. And very shortly after election he wrote me a very beautiful note thanking me for what I had...the courage and hope that I had given him in this experience of going from one person to another and finding out how they felt. And the man who put in the Labor government in 1945 had been in the Sixth District of Indiana in the '34 and '36 campaign and he spent many, many nights as guest at the White House.

TK: I think you have another...

VJ: Oh, about the people living in London, excuse me...I was entertained one Sunday night in this six weeks I was there at Lord Castle Stewart's house. He lived out in the country. His wife was a Gugenheim, Solomon Gugenheim's daughter from New York City and, of course, a very well-to-do woman and a very charming person. They had given two sons as sacrifices in the '41 to '45 war. They had an estate of about two hundred and fifty acres with their own cattle, milk cows, chickens, everything the heart could desire but under the Labor government, they couldn't use the cream from their cows. It had to go into the government pool. They couldn't have any more eggs than the man in the street who couldn't afford to buy one. Sunday night we were invited out there for dinner and they were allowed to have only one servant in this great big house and he answered the door in his shirt sleeves and his shirt was dirty. When it came to coming to the table we were given food that had been shipped by her mother from America.

TK: I think there's another point that we might want to bring about, about the Hungarian freedom.

VJ: In 1956 the Hungarian nation was celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the victory of the Christians over the Saracens. We had in Washington at that time the...five representatives of the Paulist [?] Order. The Paulist [?] Order was a group of priests, who in...the founder of the order in 1914...in the Fourteenth Century, I mean, had gone to Rome, he was a Spanish grandee with a lot of money. And when he got to Rome, he saw the poor ragged little boys on the street with the big stomachs because they were underfed, and not any clothes on. And he went to the Pope and asked for permission to feed and clothe these children and to educate them. The Pope took it under advisement and finally told him that he might do it but that he would have to finance the thing himself and he would be independent of the Pope. He could do it but it would be on his own. Well, he started what was known then as the Paulist [?] Fathers who had been prisoners of the Russians and had gotten out of prison and gone on to Lisbon, were milling around Lisbon without any money and their application for admission to the United States was being held up by the State Department because they said they were security risks, security risks of people who had been prisoners of the Russians and had suffered all of the tortures that could have been put upon them. A young priest from Buffalo, New York, of Hungarian parentage came down to Washington and visited next door to friends of mine and they called me...

asked me to come out for dinner. And the man said, Father said...he told me what he was down here for to try to get the State Department to recognize these men and let them in. "Oh", I said, "That's easy". And he looked at me and he said, "You don't know what you're talking about." Well, I said, "It might surprise you if I told you that you don't know what you're talking about. And you might not like it, but I'm telling you that in proportion to the number of employees there are as many communists in Catholic welfare as there are in the State Department." Well, that wasn't a very popular thing but it was the truth. Well he said, "Since you know so much, what would you do?" Well, I said, "I don't know tonight what we'll do but tomorrow you and I will go down to the State Department and we'll go in the front door. We may be kicked out the back door but we'll know where we've been and so will they know that we've been there." Well, the next afternoon we went down and we stayed...we started in the front door and Father Zabo told my friend what he wanted and what he knew. "Oh", she says, "You want to talk to Mr. Alexander." So she called Mr. Alexander and we went over to his office. Before we left his desk, all five of those priests had been cleared and the cable had gone to Lisbon to admit three of them the next day. Now those men are among our great teachers today. They're working with the science foundation. They have a school in Buffalo that will take care of any extra bright youngsters. They won't take a child who has an I.Q. under 135. He has to have three years of science and three years

of foreign language and they'll give him an education free. All that has to be done is to have his transportation paid. Well, we went back going back to this celebration... I think that's enough about the Paulists [?].

Going back to this celebration, those who stayed in Washington formed a committee and we were celebrating the night of the Revolution. We knew the Revolution was going on and for a time, you may remember that it looked as though it was successful. Well, then during the time that the Russians were out, Cardinal Mindzenty got out of prison and took refuge in our American Embassy. Well, it happened that he was a friend of this young priest whom I know... knew, and he telephoned to Washington every afternoon at half past two from the embassy to tell my friend what he wanted...what was needed in Hungary. Now, Hungary didn't want a man...Father...Cardinal Mindzenty said, "What we need...what is needed here are ten thousand carbines and ten thousand bazookas." Now those firearms were stored in Vienna right across the barbed wire fence practically from Hungary. Cardinal Mindzenty went on to say that if they were put by the barbed wire fence, the Hungarians would pick them up. And those poor Hungarian students that gave their lives because they had nothing but Molotov bombs with which to fight the tanks of the Russians when they came back into Hungary would have saved...their lives would have been saved and Christianity would have paid...would have profited very greatly by the effort. But it went on.

When Cardinal Mindzenty telephoned every day and told this friend of mine what was needed, he telephoned me and I was able personally to deliver that message to Secretary Wilson, the Secretary of Defense. We formed a little committee which I signed as chairman and sent a night letter to President Eisenhower. This was in November just before election. We had a Sunday afternoon demonstration. The Hungarians came from Chicago and New York, Connecticut, Philadelphia, every place, and we demonstrated before the White House. President Eisenhower promised to come out on the porch and speak, give them a little courage. We had the arrangements for loud speakers, for television. Then my telegram would have had some effect because I was to tell what I had done and ask the Hungarians to put pressure on the administration and on the State Department. The President went back on us and he didn't come out, and, of course, there was no object in having the rest of the program so we had to give that up. And in February...now, mind, this was November, early, and in February I had a letter from the State Department saying that the President had forwarded my letter to them and they were investigating. When the Hungarian Freedom Association celebrated their Tenth Anniversary last year...the Tenth Anniversary or the Revolution, they awarded me the Freedom Award for the work that I have just described.

When I first went to Washington, before I had been...even before the observation period, I had known a good deal

about what the communists were trying to do in this country and I knew how they were trying to get hold of the DAR so I asked a newspaper woman to go to the President General of the DAR and ask for a resolution from them asking Roosevelt not to recognize the Soviet Union. Well, he didn't get very far because Mrs. Magna told this friend that she'd take it up under advisement. She was the President General. She'd take it up under advisement with her advisor. It happened her advisor was the President of the Scott Tissue Paper Company in New Hampshire. Now, he said when she asked him, he said, "You know, all of our wood pulp for our toilet paper comes from Russia. How long do you think we'll stay in business if you recommend a resolution to keep us from recognizing them?" So it went on. The DAR didn't pass the resolution that we'd like to have had. And when Marian Anderson was having all the trouble and they were having the trouble, the DAR had just one regulation that was particularly pertinent to the situation; that is, that they would rent their hall to only one organization a day, for instance, one couldn't have it in the afternoon and another one in the evening because they didn't have time to get it cleaned and taken care of. So when Marian Anderson wanted to sing there, her manager of her campaign tours, or her singing tours was a white Russian who had gotten in trouble in Stalingrad and had been sent to this country to create trouble for us. Now, he knew the dates...he had a list of the dates on which the DAR was engaged either in the afternoon or in the evening...Constitution Hall,

and he wouldn't take any other date than one of those that he could only get for a half day. Now, all under the sun Mrs. Becker had to do was to cite the law or the regulation that I have mentioned and that would have shut up all of the criticism and all of the fussing. It would have stopped Mrs. Roosevelt from... But, no, she didn't tell that. She just let the thing go on and as everyone knows, Marian Anderson gave her concert from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

TK: As a sort of a wrap-up, then, of our two-days' discussion, I wanted to ask this question: Spending a great deal of your ninety years active in politics both national and state you've seen many changes come about in our history. Can you arrive at anything as far as the future is concerned in our country?

VJ: Well, that's a big question to be answered in a few words. First, I would suggest that we get back to the Ten Commandments. They're fundamental. The Father in Heaven gave them to Moses without any question and one of the most important ones today to be observed is, "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord, thy God, giveth thee." Now, God gave us this great country and it's the greatest land in the world. There's no where in the world that people have the comfort, the freedom, the opportunities that they have in this country but they're not going to have them always unless they come down to a recognition of law and order. You've got to respect your mother and father. They have lived longer and know more of what...well, in order to know something, in

order to live today, you have to have known yesterday. You have to have lived yesterday and you have to have a hope, something to build for for tomorrow. That's what makes today. Today well lived makes every tomorrow a happy anticipation. And so we go back to practical facts. Our youth today has got to respect. They've lost respect for everything pretty near. You see these youngsters, just wonderful people with a wonderful amount of energy but it's got to be directed right or this country won't have a future. We'll follow the Roman Empire. Thank you.

[END]